

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 136863
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:WNEWLIN/LD
APPROVED BY S: THE SECRETARY
EUR:GSVEST
AF:RMMOOSE
EUR/NE:RLFUNSETH
P:GMOOSE
S/S-O:RCASTRODALE

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O 302322Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136863

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PINT, BE, FR, UK, GW, CG

SUBJECT: THE SECRETARY AND BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
SIMONET MEET ON SHABA AND NATO ISSUES

1. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET AND SECRETARY VANCE
MET FOR AN HOUR ON MAY 29. SHABA WAS THE MAIN TOPIC.
THE SECRETARY SAID UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM WOULD REPRESENT
THE US AT THE JUNE 13-14 MEETING IN BRUSSELS, WHICH
SIMONET WILL CHAIR, ON THE MOBUTU ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN.
THE SECRETARY SAID THE US WOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE IN A
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2. SIMONET OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY THANKING THE US FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION WITHOUT WHICH THE SHABA RESCUE OPERATIONS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MOUNTED. HE RECALLED THE DISCUSSION OF ZAIRE AT THE SECRETARY'S LUNCH DURING PM TINDEMANS' VISIT IN OCTOBER. THE BELGIAN DIAGNOSIS OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THEN. THERE IS NO WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE TO MOBUTU WITHOUT WHOM THERE WOULD BE TRIBAL WAR AND CHAOS. ATTACKS ON THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY COULD OCCUR IN OTHER PARTS OF ZAIRE AS WELL AS IN SHABA. SIMONET SAID THIS PROBLEM THUS BECAME TRYING TO IMPROVE THE MOBUTU REGIME. THERE WERE SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS. MOBUTU'S SPEECH IN NOVEMBER CONTAINED A NUMBER OF SOUND ELEMENTS. (NOT TOO SURPRISINGLY, HE NOTED, CONSIDERING THAT MUCH OF IT WAS WRITTEN IN BRUSSELS).

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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S/S-O:DROBINSON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136863

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT STATE 136863 SENT ACTION BRUSSELS, PARIS, LONDON,
BONN & KINSHASA DTD 30 MAY 78

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136863

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 may 1978
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